

Message Text

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R 202003Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: CPAS, CGEN, AFSP

SUBJECT: CONSULAR SERVICES AT GENEVA

REF: A) BERN 0367; B) BERN A-206, 9/23/76

1. EMBASSY'S PROPOSAL CONTAINED REF A APPEARS TO BE MOST VIABLE WAY IMPROVE CONSULAR SERVICES IN GENEVA AREA, AND DEPARTMENT IS DISPOSED TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN IN ITS BROAD LINES.

2. AS WE SEE IT, PERSONNEL AND OTHER RESOURCES WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REALLOCATED WITHIN SWITZERLAND AS FOLLOWS: A) ONE OFFICER

AND TWO LOCALS FROM EMBASSY BERN CONSULAR SECTION WOULD PHYSICALLY MOVE TO LOCATIONS IN GENEVA AREA; B) THEY WOULD TAKE UP PREMISES IN OFFICE SPACE PROVIDED AND MAINTAINED IN GENEVA WITHIN US MISSION; C) THEIR OFFICE WOULD CONSTITUTE A BRANCH OF EMBASSY BERN CONSULAR SECTION; D) THEY WOULD PROVIDE FOLLOWING SERVICES ESSENTIALLY GEARED TO AMERICAN COMMUNITY: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS, PROTECTION AND WELFARE, NOTARIALS. ADDITIONALLY, DIPLOMATIC/OFFICIAL NIV'S WOULD BE ISSUED BY BRANCH OFFICE, BUT MAIL NIV APPLICATIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED BY EMBASSY BERN AS WOULD ALL IV WORK; E) EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT TO BRANCH OFFICE,

INCLUDING TDY HELP IN CASE OF LEAVE, ILLNESS, ETC.; MISSION SUPPORT WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO PROVISION OF SPACE, UTILITIES AND ROUTINE HOUSEKEEPING FUNCTIONS; F) EMBASSY BERN WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADJUSTMENTS IN ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN OFFICER SERVING IN BRANCH OFFICE AS WELL AS FOR PAYING WHATEVER INCREASES THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN LOCAL EMPLOYEES' SALARIES AT THE GENEVA PAY SCALE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE FOREGOING PLANS KNOWN TO GOS AT LEVEL THOUGHT APPROPRIATE. IF SWISS APPROVE, NOTIFY DEPARTMENT SO THAT EUR MAY FORMALLY REQUEST AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.

4. SINCE THERE ARE NO ROUTINE TRANSFERS OCCURRING IN BERN CONSULAR SECTION DURING 1976, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHICH OFFICER IN SECTION WOULD BE MOVED TO GENEVA AREA; AL,O; EMBASSY'S PLANS FOR RELOCATION OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES. FYI: IDEALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE OPERATION OF BRANCH OFFICE COMMENCE IN SPRING OF THIS YEAR, WHEN DEMAND BEGINS TO PEAK FOR CONSULAR SERVICES IN GENEVA AREA. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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